

THE HENDON FOOTBALL CLUB

01-458 3003

03-455 9185

President : P. F. RAYMOND, Esq.

Deputy-President : H. S. CARTWRIGHT, Esq.

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Claremont Chatter

This evening we are very pleased to welcome the Players, Officials and Supporters of Kingstonian F.C. to Claremont Road. The Surrey club, usually to be found amongst the honours, spent last season re-shaping the side with the introduction of several new young players and finally finished eleventh in the Isthmian League. They have made a good start to the season, their record up to the time of writing being:

Hitchin Town	Away	Lost	3—2
Clapton	Home	Won	4—1
Wealdstone	Home	Drew	0—0
Casuals	Away	Won	0—3
Maidstone	Home	Won	4—2

A total of seven points gives them just one more than ourselves after a similar number of games. Goalkeeper Brian Wakefield is back, after a one-year course at Leeds University, to bid for a place in the side. Brian kept his hand in last season playing for Northern League side, Crook Town. Inside forward Johnny McCormack has also returned after his surprising departure for Wealdstone last season. Honours were shared by the two sides last term, a Bobby Wilson goal giving us two points at Claremont Road, while the "K's" beat us convincingly at Richmond Road by 3 goals to nil.

On Tuesday evening last we returned pointless from Loakes Park when Wycombe Wanderers beat us 2—0. Always a difficult side to beat on their own ground we, nevertheless, hoped to repeat last year's victory over the Wanderers when we beat them by the odd goal in five. Our scorers on that occasion were: Bobby Wilson (2) and Tony Harding while our opponents'

goals were scored by Merrick (first) and Houseman (second). This latter fact is worth mentioning, for it was these two players, scoring in the same order, that did the damage on Tuesday.

One could say, without being in any way biased, that we had the better of the first half and were unfortunate to find ourselves trailing by the only goal at half time. We enjoyed a marked territorial advantage for the first 30 minutes with Peter Anderson, Rod Haider, and Bobby Wilson only just failing to open our account. Following a further effort by Peter Anderson, when he beat two men and shot just wide. Wycombe were awarded a free kick well to the left of our goal and although the initial kick was scrambled out, Les Merrick was there to head in No. 1. Our boys continued to press strongly and were unlucky when, for an infringement well inside the box, they were awarded only a free kick on the line. In the second half, Alf Moss was substituted for Bobby Wilson but 22 minutes later after the resumption a fine run by Worley, on the Wanderers' right, culminated in a good cross for Tony Houseman to head past John Swannell. In spite of John's protesting, about an infringement of the rules, the goal was allowed to stand after the referee had consulted his linesman and thus completed the scoring in a game which was always entertaining but could well have ended very differently had any of our early chances resulted in a goal. Well run, lads—it just wasn't our night.

Our team was, John Swannell, Dave Hogwood, Derek Gamblin, Roy Sleaf, Ray Poole, Rod Haider, Micky Cooper, Bobby Wilson (Alf Moss 2nd half), John Wilson, Bernie Davies and Peter Anderson.